

**PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**July 7, 2020**

*The Pro Bono and Public Service Committee works to enhance a culture of service by promoting opportunities and best practices that encourage WSBA members to engage in pro bono and public service with a particular focus on services to underserved low and moderate-income people.*

**Present:** Paul Okner, Nick Larson, Brendan Vandor, Bonnie Aslagson, Nancy Chupp, Althea Paulson, Christine Anderson, Kristina Ralls, Yuan Ting

**WSBA Staff:** Paige Hardy

**Meeting called to order at 1:04 PM.**

**Meeting Minutes**

- **ACTION:** Paul moved to adopt June meeting minutes as drafted. Yuan seconded. Unanimous decision to pass meeting minutes.

**BOG Meeting Updates**

Nick shared that the BOG meeting was a success. Committee had multiple presentations and had a lot of support from the BOG. The BOG has to review and approve the emeritus issue at the July meeting for a second reading since it includes a revision to the bylaws.

Althea shared that because of what the governors had discussed earlier at the meeting relating to race equity and access to justice that it really helped to support the emeritus pro bono effort. Bonnie noted that all of the preparation that went into the proposal over the years was helpful. There will be more opportunity for public comment when this proposed rule change goes to the Supreme Court and to make sure we are including the QLSP comments.

Bonnie shared an overview of changes that are being requested in the current version of the emeritus proposal: (1) fee waiver for attorneys that provide at least 30 pro bono hours; (2) elimination of the 5/10 year requirement; (3) change name from emeritus pro bono to pro bono status; (4) changes to the rule to help clarify that people can volunteer with more than one QLSP; and (5) clarify how to go back to active.

Althea shared next steps for getting these proposed rule changes and that the earliest these changes could go into effect is September 2021. Althea asked if there was a way to expedite the rule change process given the high need for more pro bono attorneys.

Nick shared that the presentation on the NJP Private Attorney Involvement Plan went well and the BOG unanimously approved the Committee's proposed comment in support of the plan.



## **Liaison Updates**

Paul shared he attended the last Seattle Pro Bono Coordinator's meeting. The meeting focused on the topic of race and race equity. The group seems committed to confronting race-related issues and the group will be doing more work in this vein moving forward.

## **Workgroup Updates**

**CLE:** Brendan shared that the workgroup will need to meet in July to identify potential speakers for the upcoming CLE. Kristina and Bonnie are both interested in being involved.

**Technology:** Paul shared that the group is still working on making improvements to the ProBonoWa website and have been in communication with ProBonoNet to move forward with some of the changes. Nancy shared that one aspect to consider is law student engagement, especially for those looking for pro bono opportunities, as expressed by the law schools.

**Strategic Planning:** Nick shared that he will be sending out a meeting appointment in the near future to discuss next year's plans.

## **MCLE Board's Request re: APR 11**

Paul shared that the MCLE Board's proposal is more condensed compared to the proposal from last year; they are only moving forward with the implicit/explicit bias requirement as a mandatory ethics credit. Paul shared he had a phone call with Adelaine Shay, the staff liaison to the MCLE Board, who shared that the MCLE Board is looking for a letter in support from the Committee. July 15<sup>th</sup> is their deadline.

Committee discussed suggesting that more ethics credits in this area be required. Nancy suggested removing the last phrase of the last sentence.

- **ACTION:** Nick moved to approve Paul's draft comment with Nancy's revision. Althea seconded the motion. Unanimous decision to pass draft comment with revisions.

## **RECRUITMENT**

Nick shared that there are still some spots open for the committee and encouraged members to reach out to people to apply.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nick shared that Bonnie has agreed to be co-chair so he and Bonnie will be co-chairing the committee next year.

Next meeting is Tuesday, August 4, 2020, 1:00-2:00 pm via Zoom.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:54 PM.**